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Young Celilo Village residents Rachelle Begay (left), and Marissa and Tyler Heemsah relax for a moment in their traditional costumes during the event celebrating the redevelopment of Celilo Village. These three helped the Corps plan and design elements of the village play area. Photo by Billie Johnson, ACE-IT Visual Information.



Living with the tribes

Northwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. Rapp and I had the privilege of attending the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Summit in Tacoma, Wash., late last month. A few weeks later, about 10 Portland District employees attended a week-long Native American Environmental and Cultural Resources Training on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton, Ore.

Looking forward, in just a few days I will attend a special session of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs at Portland State University, to discuss energy resources on tribal lands. And at the end of the month I'll be at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society's annual conference here in Portland, where Kimberly Oldham, chief of the John Day/Willow Creek Project's maintenance section, will be honored as the Executive Engineer of the Year.

To some, that may seem like an over-emphasis on tribal relations on my part. I assure you that it's not, and want to use this column to discuss why we collaborate and communicate so much with the tribes in our region.

The simple answer is this: According to U.S. law, Indian tribes are considered independent nations, and must be dealt with by the U.S. government, including the Corps of Engineers, in the same way we would deal with any other nation.

The United States recognized the sovereignty of Indian peoples in 1832 when the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Worster v. Georgia* that the "several Indian nations" had legal status as "political communities within which their authority is exclusive." On their reservations, created by treaties with the United States, Indians had exclusive authority, and this authority and all rights to land within the reservations were "not only acknowledged but guaranteed by the United States," according to the court.

One of the most important ways the United States codifies its relationship with other nations is by entering into formal treaties. When the U.S. Senate ratifies a treaty, it has the force of law and becomes a part of our national fabric.



Col. Steven R. Miles, P.E.

It is a promise and a commitment that we must keep.

The United States entered into treaties with the original citizens of the Columbia River Basin in 1854 and 1855. The Indians generally agreed to move onto reservations, ceding more than 100,000 square miles of their historic territory. In exchange they received promises of land, buildings, cash and education.

Also, the tribes reserved certain rights for themselves, particularly regarding fishing. For the bands confederated today as the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama tribes, that particular right is established in Article III of the Treaty of Walla Walla, which was signed June 9, 1855, and remains in effect to this day. That section reads:

"The exclusive right of taking fish in all the streams where running through or bordering said reservations, is further secured to said confederated tribes and bands of Indians, as also the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places, in common with citizens of the Territory ..."

One big promise Portland District recently fulfilled to the tribes regarding their right and ability to "take fish at all usual and accustomed places" is our completion and handing over of Celilo Village to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Celilo Village is


one of 31 fishing sites on the Bonneville Pool the Corps has acquired and improved under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Site project. The full story of this unique project appears later in this issue.

To prepare for the transfer ceremony, I called retired Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, former Northwestern Division commander and Chief of Engineers, who has an intimate knowledge of the project and the Columbia River tribes.

He told me that what most impressed him about the tribes is their absolute commitment to preserving their culture and traditions, despite all of the adversity and changes they have seen since white settlers first appeared along the Columbia River. The tribes refuse to compromise, and they refuse to give in.

He also admires the tribes' determination to take the long view on any project – they are always thinking 200 years out, determining the benefits to and impacts on the next seven generations.

I agree with Lt. Gen. Strock's assessment, and am committed to building relationships with our tribal stakeholders that allow us to learn from and share with other, and collaborate on solutions that address our mutual interests.

Portland District is already known as a leader in tribal relations, establishing best practices adopted throughout the Corps and maintaining a level of interactivity unmatched by most other Districts. Through our participation in tribal conferences, policy meetings, summits and trainings, I hope we can elevate our relationships with this important group of stakeholders even higher. 

Building STRONG – Essays!

The United States entered into treaties with Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama tribes at the Walla Walla Council of 1855. Sketch by Gustav Sohon, courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society.



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PGE volunteers remove ivy from Willamette Falls Locks

By Pat Barry, Bonneville Lock and Dam

Thirty Portland General Electric employees and family members volunteered their time on Aug. 15 to remove unwanted English Ivy at Willamette Falls Locks. The ivy had encroached into the parking lot and was well up into some trees, threatening part of the landscape beside the locks.

English Ivy, long associated with hallowed Ivy League universities, is considered an invasive exotic nuisance species. It chokes out native vegetation and is unsuitable to native wildlife. Once established, it spreads by extending its vines. Birds also spread the seeds that develop if ivy is left untrimmed.

Other groundcovers that are less harmful, including some native species, are available from nurseries.

Joe McArthur, vice president of Transmission and Customer Service for PGE, started the day by thanking the volunteers. Then, after a safety briefing, work commenced.


PGE volunteers worked from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. to remove an impressive 15 cubic yards of ivy. Some of the volunteers arrived early to set up and some remained later to clean up. They also offered tours of their historic generating facilities near the locks.

Scott Guptill, a PGE employee who organized this event, made sure every detail was covered, from providing lunch to arranging with the City of West Linn to pick up the dumpsters loaded with ivy.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has operated Willamette Falls Locks since 1915. It is a Civil Engineering Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places.

During recent years, funding for operations and maintenance has been a problem at the locks due to lack of commercial traffic. Now it will be

up to the Corps to keep the ivy from growing back and taking over again.

Portland General Electric employees are volunteering hundreds of hours to make Oregon better as part of the Oregon 150 sesquicentennial celebration. 



Volunteer Portland General Electric employees and family members removed 15 cubic yards of invasive English Ivy from the landscape beside Willamette Falls Locks. Photo courtesy of PGE.



Students celebrate National Public Lands Day

By Tim Darland, Bonneville Lock and Dam

September 24 was breezy and cloudy, but the weather did not keep a busload of sixth-graders, teachers and chaperones, plus two private citizens and Bonneville Lock and Dam park rangers, from planting 130 trees on Hamilton Island for National Public Lands Day.

This is the third consecutive year that Dallesport Elementary School sixth-grade students from Lyle, Wash., have planted trees at Bonneville. The kids raised over \$1,000 to participate in the day's events, reflecting the school's, staff's and children's dedication to the environment.

The day began with park rangers Skip Fowler and Tim Darland showing the group Tanner Creek, where fall chinook and coho salmon are migrating to the Bonneville Fish Hatchery.

Darland discussed the salmon life cycle and how being good stewards of our public lands help in salmon recovery efforts. The kids were in awe as the salmon swam by them.

The next stop was Hamilton Island, where park rangers Claudia Round and Brady Huffman taught the group the proper way to plant the ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, western larch and dogwood trees that Lava Nursery in Parkdale, Ore., had graciously donated.

Once the trees were planted, staked with small protective barriers and mulched, the group moved to the Fish Viewing Building at the Washington Visitor Center, where volunteers Jim and Gayle Cummings had taken care of lunch arrangements.

It's amazing how quickly a group of 45 hungry volunteers can make a 10-foot party sub sandwich




Sixth-graders, teachers and chaperones from Dallesport Elementary School joined private citizens and Bonneville Lock and Dam park rangers to plant 130 trees on Hamilton Island for National Public Lands Day. Corps of Engineers photo.



Dallesport Elementary School students carefully planted, staked and mulched each of the 130 trees they planted on Hamilton Island. Photo by Greer Curry, Dallesport Elementary School.

disappear. Operations Manager Jerry Carroll joined the group for lunch, while the park ranger staff thanked the group for all their hard work and dedication to our environment.

Following lunch, Darland presented a short interpretive program about Corps missions at Bonneville while the group enjoyed viewing salmon in the fish ladder. 



District racewalking ace honors Portland To Coast participants

By Louis Landre, Real Estate Division

Editor's note: The Portland To Coast Walk is billed as the largest walk relay in the world. Four hundred teams of walkers start from downtown Portland and make their way, rotating in relay fashion through 24 legs, to the beaches of Seaside, Ore., 127 miles away.

Louis Landre is a veteran racewalker who has helped recruit Portland District racewalking teams for the last several years. This year, he walked for the elite Racewalkers Northwest team that won the overall PTC title, racing alongside U.S. national champions and Olympians.

What is great about PTC is that it draws out the best in us – to support and encourage each other even under the most arduous conditions. All participants regardless of skill level dig deep, put forth their heart and soul, and come out with a great sense of accomplishment just because we did it. We walked the world's longest relay race, giving all of ourselves every step of the way.

Sure, there are always disappointments and mishaps, but they are minor in comparison to accomplishing the walk. Putting forth our best efforts and fulfilling a team's goal is worth a deep, heartfelt celebration. And as odd it sounds, after walking through sore or pulled muscles, foot cramps, blisters, dehydration and churning stomachs, we proudly finish on the beach in Seaside 127 miles later, wholeheartedly congratulate each other, swap a few memorable stories, and start planning for next year to be even better.

Congratulations to Patti Williams, Melissa Rinehart, Leslie Nyquist, Steve Schlenker, Jewely Keef, Kim

Ostler, Robin Norris, Erica Jensen, Jennifer Eberlien, Mary Jutzi, Jessie Fox and Amy Besch – and to everyone who participated in Portland To Coast!

The 2010 Portland To Coast Walk is scheduled for Aug. 27-28. One Portland District team has already formed and a second is recruiting members now. If you'd like to be a part of the experience, contact Louis Landre at (503) 808-4677, Melissa Rinehart at (503) 808-4327 or Patti Williams at (503) 808-4322.



Portland District's 2009 Portland to Coast Team line up after the race. From left to right: Jessie Fox, Jewely Keef, Patti Williams, Kim Ostler, Mary Jutzi, Erica Jensen, Steve Schlenker, Amy Besch, Jennifer Eberlien, Robin Norris, Melissa Rinehart and Leslie Nyquist.



Leslie Nyquist, Resource Management, walks undeterred along a dusty, gravel road accompanied by scores of Portland to Coast support vans. Photo courtesy of Melissa Rinehart, Bonneville Lock and Dam.



Patti Williams, Natural Resource Section, and Jewely Keef, Bonneville Lock and Dam, exchange the "bracelet" during their first leg of the Portland to Coast race. Photo courtesy of Jessie Fox, Bonneville Lock and Dam.



Portland to Coast walkers Leslie Nyquist, Erica Jensen, Robin Norris, Melissa Rinehart, Jennifer Eberlien and Steve Schlenker decorate their support van and take a moment to pose before starting their race relays near Scappoose, Ore. Corps of Engineers photo.



First-timer Amy Besch, Bonneville Lock and Dam, starts the race for the Corps' Portland to Coast team. Photo courtesy of Jessie Fox, Bonneville Lock and Dam.





Corps completes 10-year Celilo Village project



By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

Thousands of cars pass a small strip of land just off Interstate 84 between The Dalles and John Day dams every day without realizing the importance of this arid, windy place to a group of river people who for generations have lived from the fishery and called “Wy-Am” their home.

Today new homes face each other across a newly paved road. The road circles the longhouse, the spiritual center of the community, and loops around to pass in front of the new classroom and administration building on the east side of the village. After 10 years of planning and construction, the Corps completed the Celilo Village Redevelopment Project this summer.

Guests gathered Aug. 20 in the longhouse to celebrate the completion of the \$21 million project with Wash’ut, a drum ceremony that included seven songs. Afterward, everyone walked to the new school and administration building to watch Portland District Commander Col. Steven R. Miles present the documents transferring the infrastructure and facilities of Celilo Village to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

With this simple gesture, something big occurred.

Redeveloping Celilo Village

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, the Yakama Indian Nation and the Nez Perce Tribe signed a treaty in 1855 that ceded land to the U.S. government in exchange for the right to fish

in “usual and accustomed” places along the Columbia River, including Celilo Village.

But in 1953 the U.S. Congress passed a policy that in essence terminated federal recognition of tribal sovereignty. This termination policy encouraged the assimilation of tribal members into non-tribal society and decreased the number of residents authorized to live permanently at Celilo Village.

Not long before The Dalles Dam became operational in 1957, the village was moved about a quarter mile from its original location. The poor quality of materials and inadequate maintenance caused Celilo Village to badly deteriorate, leaving residents with water and sanitary conditions that violated federal and state statutes and endangered public health and safety.

When Brig. Gen. Carl Strock, then Northwestern Division Commander, visited the historic fishing village with tribal leaders, he saw



Lt. Gen. Carl Strock (standing, right) made a commitment to revitalize Celilo Village. Corps of Engineers photo.



Some of the employees who helped complete the Celilo Village reconstruction joined the celebration in the longhouse. From left are Nels Rurey, Program Management Section; Paul Cloutier, Tribal Liaison; Doug Craner, Office of Counsel; Kathy Seitz, Contracting Division; Ed Saldana, Portland Resident Office; Naameh Nomie, Portland Resident Office; Reed McDowell, Construction Branch; Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office; and Gail Lovell, Design Branch. Portland District Commander Col. Steven R. Miles and Project Manager George Miller recognize their efforts. Photo by Billie Johnson, ACE-IT Visual Information.

the conditions in the village. After learning the Corps was responsible for the village’s upkeep based on its construction of The Dalles Dam, he made a commitment to revitalize it.

Prior to this pledge, the extensive delays in providing assistance to Celilo Village made it difficult for residents and tribal leaders to accept that the Corps would complete this project. It was through the personal dedication of Brig. Gen. Strock and Portland District project manager George Miller that both residents and leaders began to believe it.

“General Strock was very visible in his support to correct what he saw as a Corps responsibility,”

Miller said. “He listened to the residents and tribal leaders about what was needed and supported the District’s recommendations to prepare specific, quantifiable actions on how to proceed with Celilo Village’s redevelopment.”

After Strock became commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, his commitment to fulfilling promises made to the Native American tribes remained a high priority, Miller said. “General Strock’s personal commitment was critical to explaining our project needs to Congress.”

With authorization and funding in place to redevelop Celilo Village, Miller knew he needed to

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gain the support of village residents, tribal leaders and elders, a task he knew would be difficult.

“These people had essentially been waiting for the government to fulfill its promises for nearly 50 years,” Miller said. “It was very hard for them to believe what they first saw as just more words, and I didn’t blame them at all.”

From the beginning, Miller listened to the residents with respect; more importantly, he backed up his words with action. The first meetings were planning sessions, exploring how best to accomplish the revitalization. Miller took all suggestions seriously and members of the Wy-Am board, a council made up of leaders from the four Treaty Tribes and Celilo Village residents, saw their suggestions incorporated into the plans.

Today, when a car passes Celilo Village, its driver might see children on a playground and not realize those children helped design it. It may not be clear that the Corps, BIA and tribal governments worked through highly complex and emotionally charged issues that many thought could not be resolved. It may not be clear that the new water tower brought clean running water to residents for the first time in years, or that the Corps of Engineers was involved.

But for the residents of Celilo Village, George Miller is respected as a friend and the Corps has accomplished its task.



Revitalizing Celilo Village was a partnership between tribal leaders, residents and federal agencies. Partners include (from left) Jim Beard, planning director, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; George Miller, Corps project manager; Stan Speaks, BIA regional director; and Antone Minthorn, Wy-Am board chairman and CTUIR tribal council chairman. Photo by Jurgen Hess.



Residents sign a memento for George Miller at the Celilo Village completion event. Photo by Billie Johnson, ACE-IT Visual Information.



Completed Celilo Village, 2009. Corps of Engineers photo.

District park ranger receives Corps interpretive excellence award

By Pat Barry, Bonneville Lock and Dam

Bonneville Lock and Dam Park Ranger Robin Norris received the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence at the Corps’ Summer Leaders Conference in August in Orlando, Fla.

Norris began her career with the Corps in 1986 and has served as a natural resource specialist, volunteer coordinator and interpreter. She is a model of interpretive excellence and a key employee at the largest and most-visited interpretive center operated by the Corps.

Norris personally provides hundreds of interpretive and outreach programs about the missions and objectives of the Corps of Engineers each year to inner city youth, local school children, cruise ship passengers and anyone else who enters the visitor center. She uses props, displays, American Sign Language and storytelling to help people learn about the Bonneville Lock and Dam National Historic Landmark.

Norris creates a positive experience, talking with her audience to establish their level of understanding. Through interaction, sound interpretive principles, clear themes, and good organization she helps people relate their own experiences to the role of the Corps.

One of her major responsibilities is to serve as the volunteer coordinator. The Bonneville Lock and Dam Volunteer Program recruited 154 people in 2008; they consistently complimented Norris for her skills and performance.

Norris also serves as a leader and respected role model at the visitor center. She serves on the project’s emergency response team and teaches first aid, maintains three theaters and numerous interactive displays, and is the subject matter expert for the Corps’ Gateway Web site about visitor centers.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Command Sgt. Maj. Micheal Buxbaum and Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp congratulate Norris on winning the 2009 Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Corps of Engineers photo.

She wrote an interagency display plan promoting alternative energy and efficiency, works with numerous partners in planning and delivering special events and outreach, and is the Northwestern Division representative to the Foundation for Water and Energy Education.

Norris lives with Jeff, her husband of over 20 years. They have two sons. Norris also volunteers at her son’s school and is involved in ministry at Grace Community Church in Gresham, Ore.

If you’ve been to the Bonneville Lock and Dam visitor center you might remember Norris as a professional, friendly park ranger. . She has a good-natured and cheerful approach that helps visitors feel at ease while they relate to the site and learn more about the Corps of Engineers and their environment.

Robin Norris is one of the reasons Bonneville’s visitor center is such a great place to visit.





Historic locks bring memories, family pride during reunion

By Jennifer Baker, Bonneville Lock and Dam

On a hot, sunny August afternoon, some 40 descendents of Hans Beyer Lund and his wife Rebecca Tangen gathered at the Willamette Falls Locks in West Linn, Ore. Each year this group, related by birth or by marriage to one of Hans and Rebecca's 13 children, meets in a different location.

This year's location was special, because their patriarch worked on the locks nearly 100 years ago. Lund worked on the first renovations between 1915 and 1920, not long after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had acquired the locks from Portland Railway Light and Power Company for \$375,000.

Hans Beyer Lund was a civil engineer who worked for the Portland District as early as 1911, which began more than 100 years of Corps service by his family.

During his work on the locks, Lund's family lived in Boring, Ore., and he commuted 25 miles on the local trolley to West Linn. Not long after the lock renovations were completed, Lund moved to the Oregon Coast where he worked on the Winchester Bay jetty. In 1930 he fell from a pile driver and lost his life, leaving a widow with 13 children.

Lund's sons, Willads and Clifford, continued in the Corps tradition. Willads, or Bill, retired after a career as a lockmaster at The Dalles-Celilo Canal and at Chittenden Locks in Seattle, Wash. Clifford spent most of his years on hopper dredges.

In keeping with family tradition, Marvin, Clifford's son, worked both on the dredges with his father and later at The Dalles Lock and Dam



and Chittenden Locks. He retired from the Corps around 1990.

But for the Lund family, public service didn't just mean working for the Corps.

One highlight everyone enjoyed during the reunion was sharing memories with friends and family. Possibly the funniest one of the day came from Bob Cook, Lund's grandson, who recalled a foreign visitor who was touring one of the desert parks sometime in the 1950s.

Cook worked as a park ranger for the National Park Service since 1947. Over the years he worked in Death Valley, the Everglades, Mount Rainier, Organ Pipe Cactus and Rocky Mountain national parks.



Sandy Carter (standing, right) from the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation shares historic moments from the locks' past with reunion guests as Lenore Kipp (standing, left) looks on. Photo by Jennifer Baker, Bonneville Lock & Dam.

"This very nice lady kind of pulled me aside, indicating it was a private matter. We sat down on a nearby bench and I asked how I could help her. She said very seriously, 'I see the signs for these cattle guards everywhere, but I have not seen one. Do they wear the same uniform as you do?'"

That was when he began to appreciate the cultural differences between countries, Cook said.

At 92, Dorothy Riswick has a lot of memories. She is the youngest and last surviving child of Hans and Rebecca, and clearly everyone's favorite relative. As Riswick recalled, it wasn't just the boys who had the adventures.

In 1959, as a young woman, Riswick worked in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, for a company now named British Petroleum. She worked one week and then had one week off. Many years later, the company asked if she would go back to work in Alaska and at 71, she packed up and returned for a while.

In between jobs in Alaska, Riswick travelled around the world: twice to Australia and once each to Greece, Denmark, England, Holland, Germany, China, Singapore, Thailand and Canada, to name just a few of her destinations.

Memories of missed relatives, exotic places and public service swirled and swooped around the reunion attendees like the birds who make their home around the Willamette Falls Locks. Amid the occasional sorrow for lost brothers, sisters,



Marvin Lund followed his father and brother into the family business: the Corps of Engineers. Together the Lund family had more than 100 years of Corps service. Photo courtesy of Lenore Kipp.



Corps volunteer Gayle Cummings (left) Sandy Carter of the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation (center) and Corps Park Ranger Jennifer Baker were on hand to offer a historical perspective during the Lund family reunion at Willamette Falls Locks. Photo courtesy of Lenore Kipp.



Dorothy Riswick, the last surviving child of Hans Beyer Lund and Rebecca Tangen, looks through family memorabilia at Willamette Falls Locks. Photo by Jennifer Baker, Bonneville Lock & Dam.

aunts, uncles and grandparents came laughter for the love and companionship offered by so many.

Several relatives, including Lenore Kipp, this year's reunion organizer, act as Lund family historians. Each year she makes new pages for the family books: a set of 10 3-ring binders that details all the historical information she has gathered on different family members. These books include historic pictures, newspaper clippings, post cards, letters and other items.

As the gathering ended, Lenore Kipp carefully packed up her 3-ring family books and set off, perhaps on the lookout for another memory to tuck away and share at the next reunion. 📷





Bonneville Lock and Dam's volunteer program is a winning partnership

By Robin Norris, Bonneville Lock and Dam

What do you do when you have thousands of visitors walking through your door and not enough staff to take care of them? You "hire" volunteers! That's what Bonneville Lock and Dam has been doing for many years now.

Over the past 10 years, Bonneville has been able to develop a successful volunteer program targeting retired "RVers" who live on site and work at the visitor facilities or in the outdoor recreation areas in Oregon and Washington.

Volunteers at Bonneville's Bradford Island and Washington Shore visitor centers greet and orient visitors, answer questions and operate the Discover Your Northwest bookstores. Volunteers in the outdoor recreation areas pick up litter, maintain trails, complete special projects and help with special events.

Bonneville Lock and Dam also recruits many volunteers for special events honoring Earth Day and National Public Lands Day, and provides volunteer opportunities for Eagle Scout and other youth group projects.

In exchange for 40 hours of work per couple per week, volunteers get a free full hook-up RV site on Robins Island. The seven developed sites are at full capacity through the summer. Along with an RV site, volunteers are provided with phone hookups, laundry facilities and access across the dam.

As one volunteer put it, "What a deal! And I don't have to clean the restrooms!"

A popular work rotation of two days on and four days off provides volunteers with plenty of time off to explore the Columbia River Gorge or take care of personal business.

Bonneville Lock and Dam has become a popular place to volunteer – many of the volunteers return



Ken and Fran Harris have volunteered at Bonneville for the past two seasons. Fran's rose petal sachets have increased cash donations to the visitor center. Photo by Robin Norris, Bonneville Lock and Dam.

every or every other summer. Word of mouth has spread through the full time RV community. Some volunteers have reserved volunteer positions as far out as 2012.

Dave and Dee Bernier have volunteered at Bonneville for seven summer seasons. What brings them back?

Dave says, "It's a great place to volunteer. The staff treats us like family. And we get to wake up each morning in the Columbia River Gorge! And the sunsets – you can't beat that!"

Dee adds, "It's like an iceberg here. You see the tip, but there is so much more to the place. We are always learning something new!"

Dave and Dee bring special skills to the visitor center. Dee has created beautiful quilted items to improve displays in the bookstore, and Dave spent six weeks hooking a yarn rug of the Corps castle,

which is on display at the Bradford Island Visitor Center.

Ken and Fran Harris have volunteered at several locations for many different organizations. They have been at Bonneville for the past two seasons. Fran saw the opportunity to use dried petals from the visitor center rose garden to make sachets to exchange for cash donations. This has been a successful addition to the visitor center program and generated increased donations.

Not all volunteers are full time RVers. Jim Price and Keith Loeffler are retirees who live locally. Their motivation for volunteering at the visitor centers at Bonneville is to stay active in engineering and work with the public. Since they live locally, they are available all year. It's always good to have the extra help during the spring and fall surge of students on field trips.

"We wouldn't be able to provide the level of customer service that we have this summer at our visitor centers without our volunteers," stated Pat Barry, supervisory ranger at the visitor centers. "With their help, permanent staff is freed up to provide more interpretive and outreach programs to the public. They've been a great asset."

"The benefit the volunteers bring to Bonneville Lock and Dam is priceless. We simply couldn't put a price on the level of professionalism, dedication and expertise they bring to the job every day," said Tim Darland, supervisory ranger with the Natural Resource staff. "We're lucky to have them, because with their help we are able to complete projects out in our recreation areas that have been put on the back burner."

Last year, the Bonneville Lock and Dam Volunteer Program recruited 154 volunteers. Bonneville not only reaped the benefits of the volunteer partnership, but the project also netted more than \$178,000 in cost savings!

So, the next time you visit Bonneville Lock and Dam and notice a volunteer in the visitor center or working around the project, stop them and thank them for the valuable contributions they are making to the project and community. 📷



Dave and Dee Bernier have created beautiful quilted items and yarn rugs to improve Bradford Island Visitor Center displays in the bookstore. Photo by Robin Norris, Bonneville Lock and Dam.



Jim Price (left) and Keith Loeffler (right) are local retirees who volunteer at the Bonneville visitor centers to stay active in engineering and work with the public. Photo by Danielle Erb, Bonneville Lock and Dam.





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